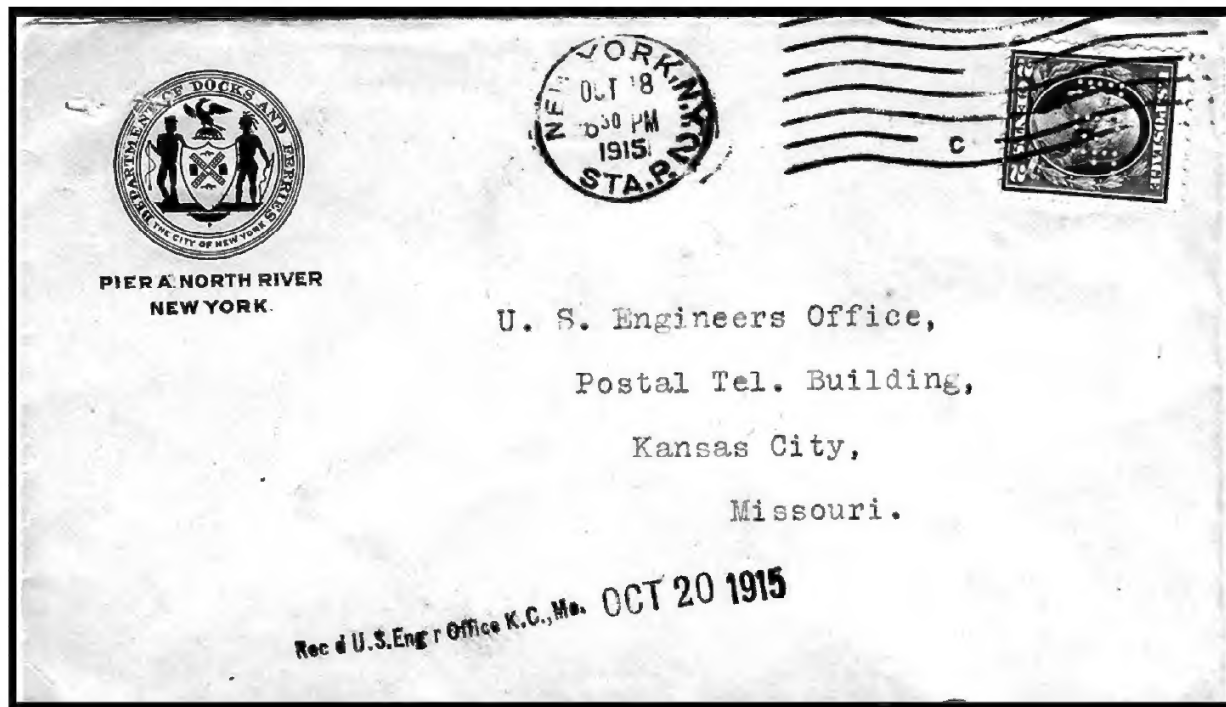


User of Pattern D33A Identified

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)



Shown here is an interesting cover that makes several points. It is a new identifying cover for D33A. As with the earlier designated perfin pattern (D33), there is now proof positive to identify the user of this pattern as the "Department of Docks and Ferries / The City of New York". Even without removing the perfin from the cover, the top of the second "D" is so distinctively different in the two patterns (D33 vs. D33A) that we can positively identify the pattern in the stamp.

Note that the date of the cancel is 1915. This means that the stamp was issued sometime before the '1917 to 1926' period off use listed in the US Perfin Catalog. My perf gauge says the stamp is a perf 10 and the only perf 10 matching this design is Scott

#425 that was issued in 1914 so this date should become the earlier date listing.

This brings me to my final point. There seems to be growing confusion as to what the usage dates in the US Perfin Catalog really stand for. Dates listed in the catalog do not represent the dates found on the ECU (earliest known use) and LKU (latest known use) on cover or SON date cancels. They represent the issue date of the earliest and latest issued stamps in which any given perfin is found. For example, a 1950 date cancelling a (1938) Prexy does not change the latest date of usage from 1938 to 1950! Please refer to page iv (4) under "The Listings" in the US Perfins Catalog for a more comprehensive description of the rationale used by the editor.